

Reagan Names Sen. Schweiker Running Mate

A Liberal Record

By Spencer Rich
Washington Post Staff Writer

When Ronald Reagan named Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), 50, as his choice for Vice President if Reagan gets the GOP presidential nomination, he selected a man viewed as one of the Senate's most liberal Republicans.

Schweiker has a mildly conservative underside on some issues such as gun control, abortion and busing. But on labor, welfare and many economic issues, he has been a model of the liberal Republican, standing alongside men like Edward W. Brooke (Mass.), Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.), Charles McC. Mathias (Md.) and Clifford P. Case (N.J.).

Schweiker was one of the first Republicans to call for the ouster of Richard M. Nixon from the presidency, declaring on May 10, 1974, when most others of his party were ducking the issue, that Nixon should resign for the good of the country.

Last year, Schweiker was rated as voting "right" on 21 of 22 key votes selected by the AFL-CIO (he was absent on the other), thus becoming the only member of either party to gain a 100 per cent rating for the votes in which he participated. Overall in his Senate career, a spokesman for the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education said, Schweiker has voted "right" 71 times and wrong only 7, and has a higher COPE rating than any other Senate Republican.

The Liberal Americans for Democratic Action gave him an 89 per cent rating for 1975, tied for first among Republicans with Brooke, but with the conservative Chamber of Commerce he rated only 13 per cent, according to calculations by the weekly magazine Congressional Quarterly. With Americans for Constitutional Action, a strongly conservative organization, he tallied only 8 per cent.

Schweiker, who served eight years in the House before his first election to the Senate in 1968, was re-elected in 1976 by a nearly 250,000-vote margin with the

backing of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

A rundown of some of his key votes this year and last gives the flavor of his voting record: this year, he voted to override the President's veto of a day-care bill; to add \$1 billion in extra education funds for culturally disadvantaged children; to delay a decision on the controversial B-1 bomber until a new President takes office next year instead of going ahead now; to bar aid to the controversial right-wing regime in Chile; to kill a nomination opposed by consumer groups. (One consumer group said he rated "right" on 38 of 40 votes last year.)

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Last year he voted against a tough anti-busing amendment, against resuming aid to Turkey because of its continued occupation of Cyprus, in favor of breaking up the big oil companies, in favor of the labor-backed common-site picketing bill, in favor of continuing controls on the export of natural gas.

Last week, Schweiker voted to overturn Mr. Ford on his veto of a \$3.95 billion jobs bill.

This record is what caused both liberals and conservatives yesterday to say that they were "flabbergasted" by Sen. Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.) put it at the decision of arch-conservative Reagan to choose Schweiker as his running mate.

"It's beyond belief," said Fannin. "It's an abandonment of Reagan's philosophy," said Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.).

"It's an impossible ticket, oil and water cannot mix," said Sen. Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii).

On the House side, conservative Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio) said, "It's the dumbest thing I ever heard of," adding that he may have to withdraw his support for Reagan.

Rep. Robert A. Bauman (R-Md.), a conservative from Maryland's Eastern Shore, said in an interview, "What if Reagan wins? What if Reagan dies? Then Schweiker would become President. God forbid. He's as bad as Mondale." (Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota is the Democratic vice presidential nominee.)

Yet, as Sen. Dewey Bartlett (R-Okla.) noted, on some issues at least Schweiker has a conservative side that could make him more acceptable to Reaganites. For example, Schweiker has voted in favor of school busing sometimes, but against it on others, and has said his yardstick is whether the neighborhood school is retained.

Earlier this year, he voted against killing an antiabortion constitutional amendment, and last year he voted to bar use of federal funds to perform abortions under Medicaid. Just recently, however, he voted to kill an amendment barring federal funds for abortion—an apparent inconsistency with his previous vote.

Sen. aide said there isn't any inconsistency. Schweiker believes abortions should be barred except to save the life of the mother. Last year's amendment provided for that, this year's didn't, the aide said.

Schweiker also has been a strong opponent of gun control, a position that helped him defeat incumbent Sen. Joseph P. Clark (D-Pa.), a strong liberal, in 1966 when the Democrats were otherwise carrying Pennsylvania.

Born in Norristown, Pa., June 1, 1926, Schweiker served in the Navy in World War II, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Penn State in 1950, is a member of a small Protestant group, the Central Schwenkfelder Church.

His biography notes that his wife, the former Claire Coleman, was the original "Miss Claire" of TV's "Romper Room." They have five children ranging from nearly 6 years old to 19.

A business executive, Schweiker ran for the House from his Montgomery County (Philadelphia suburb) district in 1960 as an independent in the GOP primary and won. He was reelected every two years till he lost to Clark for the Senate in 1968. An AFL-CIO spokesman noted that as a House member from a heavily GOP district, he was far less liberal than as a senator voting with labor only 25 times in 47 key votes while in the House.

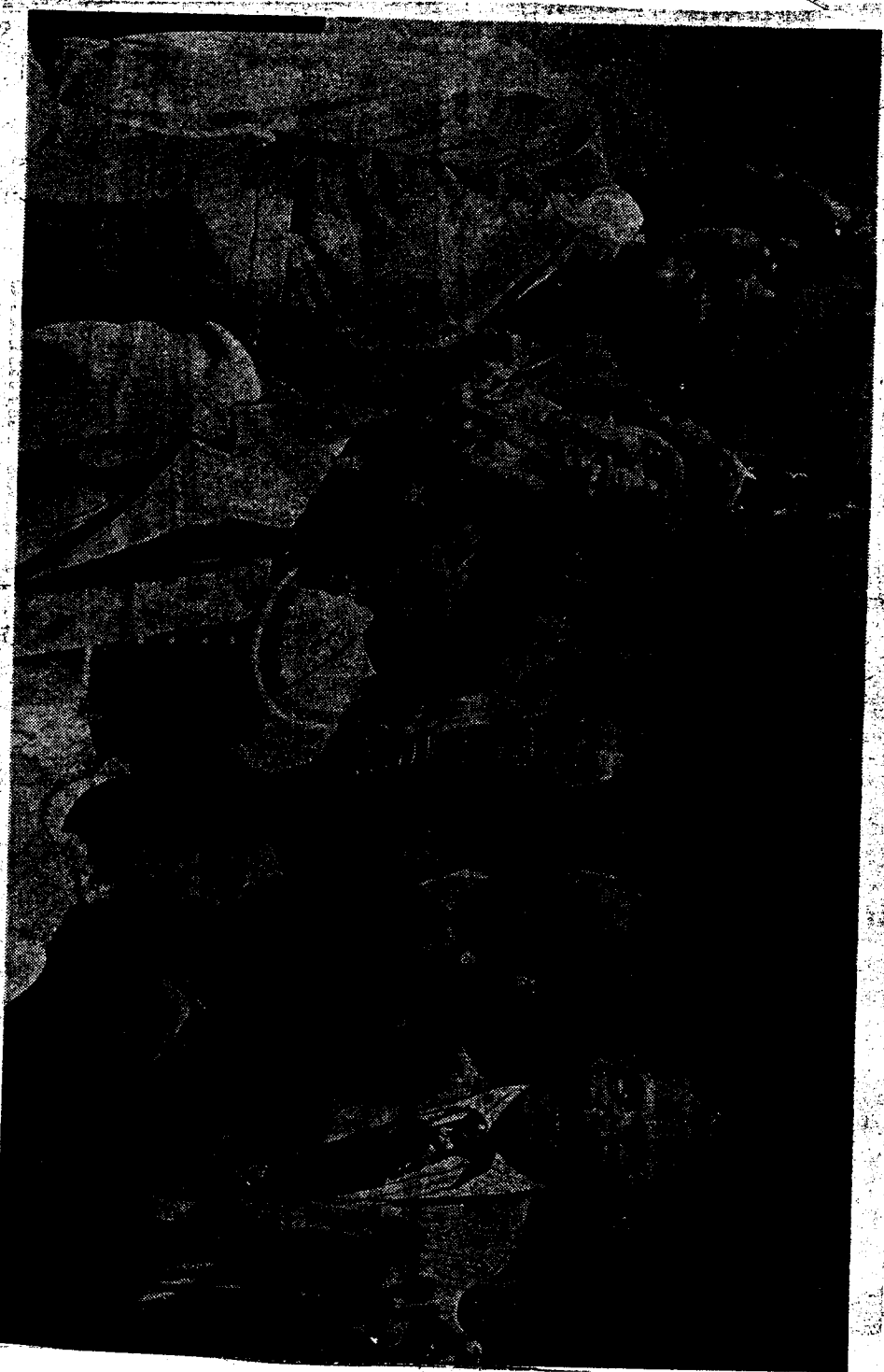
Last Feb. 10 Schweiker (a hard-line delegate until he withdrew yesterday) was quoted by UPI as saying, "It's Ford vs. Reagan" and "I'll support Mr. Ford 'down the line.' Yesterday was a different story."

Schweiker is accompanied by his family at yesterday's announcement. In front are Richard

Jr., 9, and Kristi, 6. Standing from left: Lani, 15; Malcolm, 18; Kyle Claire, 11, and Mrs. Claire

Schweiker. At rear is Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, an adviser to Reagan.

By James E. W. Audition—The Washington Post



Bid for Wider Base

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writer

Ronald Reagan, in an attempt to outflank President Ford politically, said yesterday that he will name Sen. Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania as his running mate if he wins the Republican presidential nomination.

Schweiker, 50, has one of the most liberal voting records in the Senate, and his selection was counted on by Reagan strategists to shore up the former California governor's lagging campaign in the Northeast.

"Gov. Reagan's decisive stroke in one fell swoop unites the Republican Party for November by bringing together the conservative and moderate wings of our party," Schweiker said in eagerly accepting the designation at a press conference in the Senate Caucus Room. "It instantly gives our party across-the-board appeal."

But the choice was derided by White House spokesmen and their allies. It also was greeted with skepticism and disapproval by some of the Pennsylvania uncommitted delegates whom it was expected to influence favorably and by some other prominent Republicans.

"Obviously, it's going to hurt Gov. Reagan very badly," said Rep. William L. Armstrong of Colorado, that state's only uncommitted delegate to the national convention. "It must be one of the most serious political miscalculations of the century. It's a blunder of the utmost magnitude."

Armstrong and others called attention to Reagan's repeated statements that he would choose a Vice President of his own philosophy and to Reagan's warning in the current issue of Time magazine that Mr. Ford would divide the GOP if he chooses a liberal Northerner as his running mate.

"It would be a foolish mistake," the magazine quoted Reagan as saying. "Ford would lose the South. And a lot of Republicans might not work for him. The balance of our country is in the Sun Belt and that's where the future of our party is."

Texas Republican Chairman Ray Hutchison, who heads the GOP in a key Sun Belt state, said yesterday that he had "operated on the comfortable assumption that Gov. Reagan would select someone compatible with himself and with the South and West and much of the country. I don't look at this selection as that and it disappoints me."

Reagan National Chairman John P. Sears, appearing with Schweiker at his press conference, said the Pennsylvanian was "a very compatible running mate for

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Gov. Reagan" and would enable Reagan to run "a truly national campaign."

Sears contended that Schweiker would strengthen the ticket in the Northeast. Combined with Reagan's strength in the West and South, he said, it would mean that the Republicans would not have to concede any state to the Democrats.

But there was no immediate indication that Schweiker's selection had produced a positive impact in the delegation where it logically could be expected to do the most good for Reagan—the senator's home state of Pennsylvania.

"My reaction is surprise, shock, disappointment and disgust," said uncommitted Pennsylvania delegate James A. Stein. When Ronald Reagan met with the Pennsylvania delegation on July 15, he told me he would not consider a political running mate who was not of his philosophy. I took him at his word."

Only two of the nine uncommitted Pennsylvania delegates surveyed yesterday by The Washington Post thought that the choice of Schweiker would help the Reagan ticket.

John D. Roskos of Kingston thought that Schweiker was too pro-labor and that Reagan "couldn't pick anybody worse." William S. Brewer of Carlisle said he was "sorry that he picked him—he's too liberal a Republican." T. T. Metzger of Johnstown, a past president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen, said he approved of the choice and took note of Schweiker's opposition to gun control.

Two pro-Ford spokesmen in the Pennsylvania delegation, Sen. Hugh Scott and former Gov. Ray Shafer, both used the word "desperate" to describe the selection of Schweiker.

In The Washington Post delegate count, after switching Schweiker from the Ford to the Reagan column, the President has 74 committed delegates (14 fewer than the President Ford Committee claims) in Pennsylvania, compared with eight for Reagan and 24 who are uncommitted.

The only state with more uncommitted delegates than Pennsylvania is Mississippi, where the entire 30-member delegation is uncommitted.

One strong Reagan backer in Mississippi, national committeeman Victor Mavar, said he wished that Reagan had chosen someone more conservative than Schweiker but said the choice would not affect his commitment to Reagan. Another pro-Reagan delegate who asked not to be identified said he was "shocked" by the decision and added: "There's no way it can help him, with the [Mississippi] dele-

gation.

While critics of the designation stressed the differences between Reagan and his running mate, the former California governor said in a statement that he read in Los Angeles yesterday that he and Schweiker shared "the same basic values." These values were listed by Reagan as belief in a "strong, compassionate, moral and decent America" and "in an America governed by the rule of law, not by men."

But there were fundamental differences in the Schweiker and Reagan records, differences underscored by the perfect rating given Schweiker by the Committee on Political Education (COPE) of the AFL-CIO in 1975. Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, had a 95 per cent rating from COPE.

The liberal Americans for Democratic Action gave Schweiker an 89 per cent rating for 1975 and Mondale, 94.

Schweiker readily conceded that he had some differences with Reagan but praised Reagan for taking the initiative to create a coalition and unite the badly divided GOP. When Schweiker was asked what his position was on the Panama Canal, he spent several minutes agreeing with

Reagan on the detente issue and then said he had taken no position on the Panama Canal, over which Reagan says the United States must maintain control.

Both he and Reagan will run on "whatever position the Republican platform takes on this issue," Schweiker added.

The Schweiker designation was a bold political gamble intended to broaden the reach of the Reagan ticket and put President Ford, who has dangled the vice presidential nomination before a host of prospects, on the defensive.

The risk of the move was that it might alienate conservatives without winning a sufficient number of moderates to offset this.

Howard Phillips, former director of the Office of Economic Opportunity and director of the Conservative Caucus, expressed the outrage on the conservative side when he said that "Gov. Reagan has betrayed the trust of those who look to him for leadership."

Phillips added, "The principal difference between Schweiker and Mondale is that Sen. Mondale votes the liberal line by conviction whereas Sen. Schweiker apparently does it for the convenience of securing AFL-CIO (COPE) support in his Pennsylvania political campaigns."

However, the Young Americans for Freedom issued a statement approving of Schweiker's "outspoken conservative positions on the issues of gun control, abortion, and school prayer."

At Plains, Ga., Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter said he was "a

little surprised" by Reagan's announcement. Rogers C.B. Morton, chairman of the Ford campaign, said the selection was "hard for me to understand" and claimed that Reagan was exchanging "the second-highest office in the land for a handful of delegates."

Reagan went about his unusual pre-convention selection in a quiet way. He told Sears and Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, his national chairman, of his criteria and launched them on a two-month search.

Schweiker was first approached by Laxalt eight days ago while he was vacationing at Ocean City, N.J. After a subsequent conversation among the three men, Schweiker flew to Los Angeles last Friday after booking a flight under the name of his press secretary. He spent six hours in conversation with Reagan and agreed to go on the ticket.

Sears said that he and Laxalt had decided that Schweiker was the best choice after reviewing a wide range of prospects that included even some Democrats. They presented their recommendation privately to Reagan, who accepted it, Sears said. Both Sears and Schweiker said the question of delegates that the senator might swing to the ticket was never discussed.

When he was governor of California, Reagan was known as a man who delegated a great deal of responsibility and also an executive who was much more pragmatic in action than in his political speeches.

Both of these attributes were recalled critically yesterday by Paul Haerle, California GOP chairman and a onetime Reagan appointments secretary who is now an ardent Ford supporter.

"When it gets into politics and personnel, Reagan's a rather thoroughly manipulative guy," Haerle said. "This is pragmatism carried to its logical absurdity."

Sears said in response to questions that no check had been made of Schweiker's financial or medical records.

"It's a corruption of the process . . . to put this [decision] in the hands of investigators and people who snooze around into a person's private life," Sears said.

Washington Post staff writers David S. Broder, Stephen Isaacs, Bill McAllister, Edward Walsh and Jules Witcover contributed to this article.